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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently amended). A method for managing enterprise operations comprising:

logging on to a project manager server from a computer network, said project manager server executing a project manager for creating projects based upon project management trees containing one or more data objects disposed to cooperatively effect project management functions, said logging on including providing a user identifier to the project management server from a remote location and receiving a customized home page in accordance with the user identifier;

defining one or more organizational entities within the enterprise;

defining one or more user groups associated with each of the organizational entities;

defining one or more users associated with each of the user groups;

defining user roles associated with at least one of the users, said customized home page including one or more projects associated with the at least one of the users in accordance with the user roles;

displaying a view of a first of said project management trees associated with a first project included within said projects to a first user of said users wherein a scope of said view is determined based at least in part upon membership of said first user within a first of said user groups, said view including representations of a plurality of data objects of said first of said project management trees; and

navigating among representations describing, within ones of said plurality of data objects, functions defining relationships between said ones of said plurality of data objects and other of said plurality of data objects of said first of said project management trees appearing within said view and;

interfacing with the first project by viewing ones of said plurality of data objects in accordance with the user roles.

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2 (Previously presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising defining one or more external agencies for interfacing with the project management server.

3 (Previously presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising defining one or more suppliers for interfacing with the project management server.

4 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the user roles include permission and security access rights for viewing and altering data stored by the project management server.

5 (Previously presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising:

remotely logging on to the project manager server from a terminal coupled with a computer network; and

creating a project associated with one of the organizational entities.

6 (Original). The method of claim 5, wherein the project is created using a project tree data structure comprising one or more objects organized in a hierarchical fashion.

7 (Original). The method of claim 6, wherein the objects include at least one of: budgets, tasks, costs, timesheets, specs, requisitions, purchase orders, and to-do lists.

8 (Canceled). The method of claim 6, wherein said method further comprises:

providing a user identifier to the project management server from a remote location; receiving a customized home page in accordance with the user identifier, wherein the customized home page includes one or more projects associated with the user in accordance with the user roles; and

interfacing with the project by viewing objects within the project tree in accordance with the user roles.

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9 (Previously presented). The method of claim 6, further comprises:

interfacing with said project by editing one or more objects within the project tree in accordance with the user roles.

10 (Previously presented). The method of claim 6, further comprising:

interfacing with the project by deleting one or more objects within the project tree in accordance with the user roles.

11 (Previously presented). The method of claim 6, wherein said method further comprises:

interfacing with the project by adding one or more objects within said project tree in accordance with the user roles.

12 (Previously presented). The method of claim 3, further comprising completing a user defined spec for specifying a product of service.

13 (Previously presented). The method of claim 12, further comprising generating an RFQ from the completed user-defined spec.

14 (Previously presented). The method of claim 13, further comprising sending one or more RFQ's to suppliers that match the completed spec.

15 (Previously presented). The method of claim 14, further comprising receiving one or more bids from suppliers in response to the RFQs.

16 (Previously presented). The method of claim 15, further comprising awarding the job to one or more of said suppliers that sent in a bid.

17 (Previously presented). The method of claim 16, further comprising automatically generating purchase orders associated with awarded jobs.

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18 (Previously presented). The method of claim 8, wherein said method further comprises:

interfacing with said project by adding one or more objects to said customized home page.

19 (Currently amended). A centralized system for managing enterprise operations comprising:

a project manager for creating projects for the enterprise, each of said projects being defined by a project management tree containing a plurality of data objects disposed to cooperatively effect a project management function wherein ones of said plurality of data objects corresponding to a first said project management tree each include descriptions of one or more functions defining relationships among said ones of said data objects, said project manager including:

a functions component configured to perform a plurality of functions upon said plurality of data objects,

a security module disposed to restrict access to said plurality of functions in accordance with predefined access rights, and

a server component configured to generate a customized home page capable of being displayed to a user in a remote location in accordance with a user identifier provided by the user, wherein the customized home page includes one or more projects associated with the user in accordance with user roles associated with the user; and

~~a navigation component for facilitating navigation among said plurality of data objects~~

an interface component for enabling viewing of said ones of said plurality of data objects in accordance with the user roles;

one or more internal departments of the enterprise coupled to said project manager; and
one or more suppliers coupled to said project manager.

20 (Original). The system of claim 19, further comprising one or more external agencies coupled to said project manager.

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21 (Original). The system of claim 19, further comprising a centralized spec server coupled to said project manager for generating user-defined specs.

22 (Original). The system of claim 19, wherein said projects include at least one of: organizational entities, work-groups, people, budgets, tasks, costs, timesheets, specs, requisitions, purchase orders and to-do lists.

23 (Original). The system of claim 22, wherein said completed specs are automatically matched with suitable suppliers.

24 (Original). The system of claim 23, wherein RFQs are automatically generated and sent to said suitable suppliers.

25 (Original). The system of claim 23, wherein the suitable suppliers can interface with the project management system by sending bids in response to said RFQs.

26 (Original). The system of claim 25, wherein purchase orders are automatically generated for said bids that are approved.

27 (Currently amended). A project management system for managing operations of an enterprise, said system comprising:

a centralized server computer, said server computer being configured to execute a project manager disposed to (a) create projects for said enterprise wherein ones of said projects are based upon project management trees containing one or more data objects disposed to cooperatively effect project management functions, (b) define one or more organizational entities within the enterprise, (c) define one or more user groups associated with each of the organizational entities, and (d) define one or more users associated with each of the user groups, (e) display a view of a first of said project management trees associated with a first project

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included within said projects to a first user of said users wherein a scope of said view is determined based at least in part upon membership of said first user within a first of said user groups, said view including representations of a plurality of data objects of said first of said project management trees wherein each of said plurality of data objects includes descriptions of one or more functions defining relationships among ones of said plurality of data objects, (f) navigate among representations of a plurality of data objects of said first of said project management trees appearing within said view(f) facilitate interfacing with said first project by controlling the viewing of said plurality of data objects in accordance with user roles associated with said first user; and

at least one user computer configured to log on to said centralized server computer and access said project manager after providing a user identification corresponding to said first user to said centralized server computer, said at least one user computer receiving a customized home page in accordance with the user identifier, wherein the customized home page includes one or more projects associated with said first user.

28 (Previously presented). The project management system of claim 27 further including one or more supplier computers coupled to said centralized server computer.

29 (Previously presented). The project management system of claim 27 wherein said project manager further operates to define user roles associated with at least one of the users.

30 (Previously presented). The project management system of claim 27 wherein said at least one user computer and said centralized server computer are operatively connected via a distributed communications network, said at least one computer executing a web browser capable of interfacing with said project manager.

31 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 27 wherein said view is selected based at least in part upon access rights accorded said first user.

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32 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 27 wherein each of said plurality of data objects contains information identifying types of other of said plurality of data objects which may be proximately located to ones of said plurality of data objects within said first of said project management trees.

33 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 32 wherein each of said plurality of data objects further includes information defining the manner in which modifications to one or more of said plurality of data objects affect other of said plurality of data objects.

34 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 27 wherein said project manager includes:
a functions component configured to perform a plurality of functions upon said plurality of data objects, and
a security module disposed to restrict access to said plurality of functions in accordance with predefined access rights.

35 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 19 wherein a first set of said plurality of data objects are related to organizational entities of said enterprise and a second set of said plurality of data objects are representative of particular projects associated with ones of said organizational entities.

36 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 27 wherein a first set of said plurality of data objects are related to organizational entities of said enterprise and a second set of said plurality of data objects are representative of particular projects associated with ones of said organizational entities.

37 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 19 wherein at least one or more of said data objects self-describe responses of said one or more data objects to performance of ones of said plurality of functions upon said one or more data objects.

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Applicant additionally observes that each of the pending independent claims 1, 19 and 27 now each include elements substantially similar or identical to the following:

describing, within ones of a plurality of data objects, functions defining relationships between said ones of said plurality of data objects and other of said plurality of data objects.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references or other known prior art describes or suggests that the data objects of a project management tree include functions defining relationships between ones of such data objects and other of such data objects. This aspect of the present invention is described by the present specification at, for example, page 34, lines 10-16.

It is further respectfully submitted that that none of the cited references or other known prior art describes or suggests either of the following recitations, which also appear in similar or identical for in each of the pending independent claims:

receiving a customized home page in accordance with a user identifier provided to a project management server from a remote location, wherein the customized home page includes one or more projects associated with the at least one of the users in accordance with the user roles;

interfacing with the first project by viewing objects within the first of said project management trees in accordance with the user roles.

With regard to the recitation of a "customized home page", the Examiner has previously identified col. 1, lines 7-18 of Deinhart as being relevant. Applicant has reviewed this section of Deinhart, and has found no mention of either a "home page" or any discussion of how the same or other interface could be customized for a particular user. Similarly, although the Examiner has cited col. 7, lines 16-30 in connection with the provision of a user identifier to a project management server from a remote location, Applicant is unable to discern any reference to provision of a "user identifier" or the like to any type of server. Finally, the Examiner has noted that the "interfacing" recitation described above is described by Deinhart col. 7, lines 19-21. Applicant acknowledges that Deinhart describes, with reference to FIG. 2A, the association of tasks with users and the requirement that each task requires a set of competencies capable of being viewed as a set of specific access rights to a set of objects 4 necessary to carry out that task. However, Deinhart does not describe or suggest that the objects 4 form part of a project tree, as present claimed. Applicant observes that in this regard the objects 4 depicted in FIG. 1

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38 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 19 wherein said project manager further includes a new object filter operative to present a list of potential new data objects which may be added to said project management tree at a selected location.

39 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein said view is selected based at least in part access rights accorded said first user.

40. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of data objects contains information identifying types of other of said plurality of data objects which may be proximately located to ones of said plurality of data objects within said first of said project management trees.

41. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 40 wherein said plurality of data objects further include information defining the manner in which modifications to one or more of said plurality of data objects affect other of said data objects.